

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“~~—~~”) being deleted:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A method for personalizing an electrical device having a plurality of button openings that are adapted to receive interchangeable, encoded buttons, comprising the steps of:

receiving selection of a particular device functionality to be associated with a particular encoded button; and

assigning the selected device functionality to the encoded button such that when the encoded button is disposed within a button opening of the electrical device and depressed, the selected functionality will be performed by the electrical device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of receiving selection of a particular device functionality comprises receiving selection of a particular sound that is to be emitted by the electrical device when the encoded button is depressed.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the selected functionality will be performed by the electrical device when the encoded button is depressed irrespective of the particular button opening in which the button is disposed.

21. (Original) A method for personalizing an electrical device, comprising the steps of:

receiving a record command input by a user;

detecting selection of various device buttons after receiving the record command, each device button being associated with a discrete device functionality; and

assigning each of the functionalities associated with the selected buttons to a further button so that the further button is programmed to initiate performance of each of the functionalities when depressed by a user.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of receiving a selection of a button to be programmed from the user and assigning the functionalities to the selected button.

23. (New) A method for controlling operation of an electrical device, comprising:

detecting reception of a removable button by a button receiving member;

identifying the position of a pin of the removable button, the position of the pin being related to a given functionality; and

determining a functionality associated with the removable button from the identified pin position.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein identifying the position of a pin comprises identifying the position of a nonconductive pin through actuation of a button receiving member sensing element by the nonconductive pin.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein identifying the position of a pin comprises identifying the position of a conductive pin that makes contact with a conductive sensing element of the button receiving member.

26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein determining a functionality comprises determining what electrical device operation to perform when the removable button is selected.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein determining a functionality comprises determining a sound to generate when the removable button is selected.

28. (New) A method for enabling customization of an electrical device, comprising:
receiving a selection input by a device user of a functionality to be associated with a given removable button;
detecting selection of the given removable button in a device control panel;
determining the functionality associated with the given removable button; and
performing the functionality associated with the given removable button.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein receiving a selection comprises receiving a selection input into the electrical device.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein receiving a selection comprises receiving a selection input into a computing device separate from the electrical device.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein detecting selection comprises detecting the position of a pin of the given removable button with a button receiving member.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein determining a functionality comprises determining what electrical device operation to perform when the removable button is selected.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein determining a functionality comprises determining a sound to generate when the removable button is selected.